

# St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

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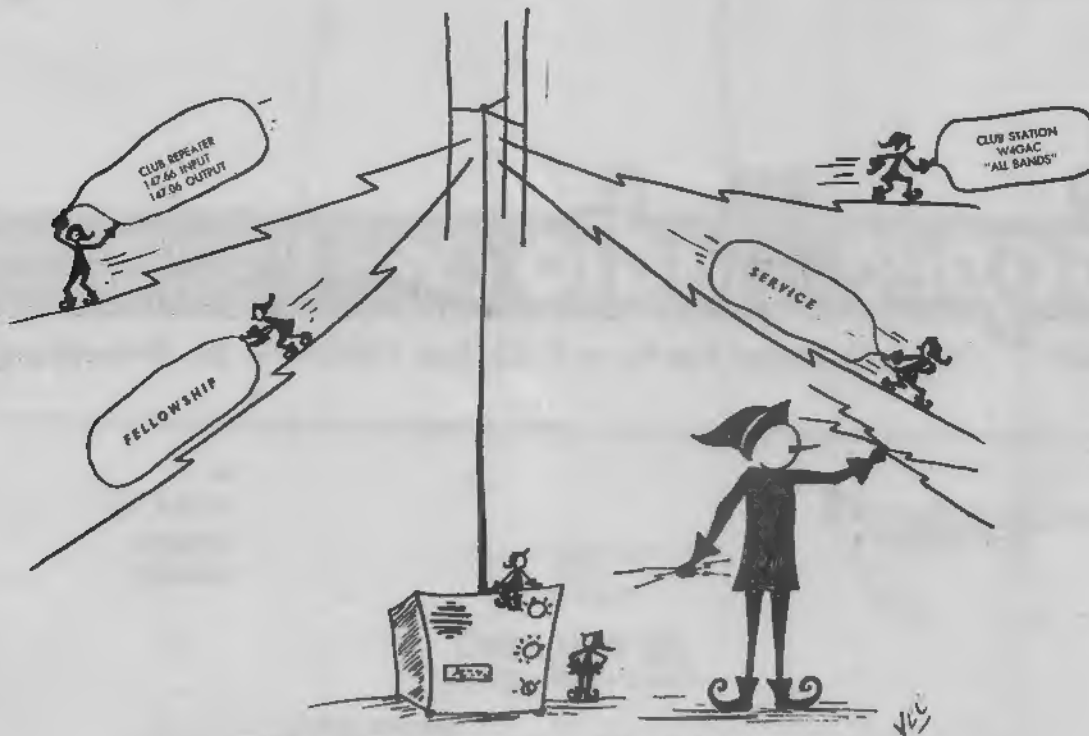
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## S P A R C - G A P

JUNE 1976.

SPARC



# WR4ALM



REGULAR MEETINGS ON THE FIRST FRIDAY  
OF EACH MONTH

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OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 4th. 8:00 P.M.

RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS

818 - 4th. Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida

## \*\*\* PROGRAM \*\*\*

W4WME Bill Foley - will be putting on a very interesting program on antennas, his subject will be "THE ANTENNASCOPE" this is a new HAM RADIO TOOL. Bill in his own right is an engineer in electronics - he spent a good many years with the Hammelund Electronics Mfg Co., so we are very fortunate to have Bill as our speaker.

HAM FEST 1976 Although rain threatened all day long with a little shower now and then, the HAMFEST was a great success with everyone having a wonderful time. Frank W4VIP and his XYL took care of the tickets for the womens and childrens prizes. WB4FYU Linda and WA4FNY Bill took care of the main prize tickets, WB4VWO Gene took care of the announcing of all the prizes that were donated to the HAMFEST. Prizes were given away all day long, this included women, children, and other HAMS. The main prizes were drawn by Linda Saunders WA4HKP and the winners were Brian Felps K4NAN (1 ICOM 22A Transceiver) Jack Faulstich W4CXL (1 ICOM 22A transceiver). Jack makes the claim that he was standing at the exact spot that he stood last year when he received the big prize then, in fact Linda WA4HKP was the same person that, that made the drawing last year, so its true that lightning can hit at the same spot twice..... Womens main prize, handbag to XYL W4HXQ - Permanent to XYL K4OC -- Children's main prize Phonograph to Tanya WB4VWO (daughter) Electric Train to WB4LWB Christiane (Granddaughter) Hand knitted Stole, Susan Phelps (K4NAN).....

MINUTES 05/07/76 The regular meeting of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Vice President John Merada, in the absence of President Bill Cox, at 2000 hrs local time.

The program for the evening was a Karate demonstration, and was not available for this evening.

The Treasurer reported that as of the end of April the Club had \$432.50 in the checking account.

John read a letter from the Orange Blossom Classic Committee thanking the club for its help with the communications at the Classic. Another letter was read to the membership from the American Red Cross explaining the use and reservation rules for the Henderson Hall. John Komp informed the club that they were signed up for Friday nights thru the month of December and the repeater team was signed up thru the month of October for Tuesdays nights.

John WB4LWB announced that WA4CVV, WA4KCR and WA4FPS are the men on the Field Day Activity Committee with WA4CVV Bill appointed to the chair.

Larry WA4CTM read the minutes of the last meeting, and they were moved accepted as read; motion passed.

Jim Keyes K4FCW gave a fine report on the Isla de Mujeres Yatch Race, with a side note from Dave Davis. They wish to thank again all who helped with this project.

Woody K4scl gave a report on the Festival of States activities and the Mutt Derby project. Woody reported that Jordan WA4FYR resigned as E.C. of Pinellas County and that he is now the acting EC. until a new appointment has been made.

George K4TH gave a report on the latest meeting of the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council. He asked that the SPARC co-ordinate the transmitter hunt for the Convention to be held at the Sheraton Sand Key on Clearwater Beach. (George is also in need of a secretary for the Council; write to the Council at P.O.Box 157, Clearwater Fla. 33517 or call Penn Brown at 441-1122 after 5:30 P.M.)

The meeting broke for coffee and then general discussion was held until 2100 when the meeting was adjourned by a motion from the floor. de Larry Miner Secty.

# SPARC - GAP

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## RTTY NEWS CONTINUING WITH OUR BASICS FROM LAST MONTH:

This power supply delivers the required 60 ma continuously; All day and, if you leave on as I do, all night too. This is the only function the supply does. When the terminal unit detects the presence of a space tone, it interrupts the flow of current in the loop for as long as the tone is present. When the mark tone is there, the loop is conducting. This term "LOOP" that we are using is referring to nothing other than a pair of wires that is carrying the current between the different machines.

This brings us to another point that is often overlooked by the RTTY fans that use tube type RTTY equipment, but is extremely important in solid state terminal units. For each additional machine that is used in the loop, the magnetic reverse inductance of that set of coils is also added to the loop and this could add up to seventy volts EACH of a reverse spike on the keying tube or transistor. This additional spike cannot be overlooked in a solid state keyer. IT must be bypassed and reduced to negligible if long life is to be realized from the keying transistor or tube. This is often accomplished by the addition of a 470 ohm one watt resistor in series with a 0.1 mf capacitor to the circuit. This combination is connected from the collector (or hot end of the keyer) to ground (or the cold end of the keyer). Additional hints next month. 73

de WA4CTM Larry...

ATTENTION ALL ARRL AFFILIATED CLUBS: Amateurs of North America are asked to watch for transatlantic propagation on frequencies above 21 MHz during the spring and summer season of 1976. The North Atlantic path was active on 21 and 28 MHz several times in summer, 1974 and 75, but the full potential of the E-layer mode was not realized because of lack of activity in many areas. There is no 50-MHz band in Europe, but crossband work to 21 or 28 MHz may be possible when those frequencies are open. A cw beacon near 50.1 MHz may be operated in France, but official permission has not yet been given. The chance of 2-meter transatlantic work seems remote, but tests and monitoring are encouraged. The European band is 144 to 146MHz. Early daylight hours have been most productive on 20 MHz but evening work has been reported. European beacon stations between 28.16 and 28.195 MHz provide reliable evidence of band conditions, particularly DL4IGI 28.195, nad GB3SX, 28.18 MHz. Please report and reception or two-way work to W1HDQ, ARRL Headquarters.

AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE GROWING AGAIN: By Vic Clark - W4KFC Vice Pres. ARRL Auto Call: for the first time in several years, a growth trend appears to have been restored to the amateur radio population. FCC figures show an overall gain in the Amateur Service of 256,264 to 260,091, from March 1 to December 1, 1975. Conditionals are down 1045, Generals are down 2526, while all other classes are up, led by Advanced with an increase of 4105. While the overall increase (3827) is a small percentage of the amateur body as a whole, it is in the right direction. Much of the credit for this encouraging development undoubtedly belongs to clubs and individuals sponsoring training courses for new amateurs!!!

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The following letter received from Ralph E. Stevens, Jr.:

St. Petersburg Radio club  
% Mr. Bill Cox, President  
818 4th Street North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

Dear Mr. Cox;

Please extend my sincere appreciation to all members of the St. Petersburg Radio Club for their assistance with the Orange Blossom Classic. Our special thanks go to those that helped us with their time and radios. However, we would also like to send our thanks along to those that gave us clear communication channels.

Without the help of volunteers such as you, St. Petersburg could not hold a major sporting event such as this.

The super job of communications done by everyone kept the spectators everywhere appraised of how the tournament stood. It is this information that increases the enjoyment of the spectators and was a major factor in this being our most successful tournament to date.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Stevens, Jr.  
Chairman of Scoring  
and Communications.

In behalf of the membership of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club we all wish to thank the following firms and individuals who donated the many prizes that kept our speakers buzzing throughout the HAMFEST:

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OFFICIAL ARRL BULLETIN #585 - ARRL has just received preliminary word about FCC action on two letter callsigns for Extra Class licenses, In Docket 20092. Effective July 1, Extra Class licensees holding two letter calls or eligible under present rules for them may apply for the specific call they would like to have. Three months later, the privilege will be extended to those achieving Extra Class approximately ten years ago.

Gradually the seniority provision will be phased out. More details after the news release has been received, probably around April 20.

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OFFICIAL ARRL BULLETIN #586 - ARRL has received further word on two letter call signs for Extra Class licensees, in Docket 20092. Effective July 1, 1976 Extra Class licensees currently holding two letter calls or eligible for them under present rules may apply for the specific two letter call of their choice. Beginning October 1, 1976 licensees who held an Extra before November 22, 1967 may request a specific two letter call. Beginning January 1, 1977 those who had an Extra before July 2, 1974 may apply. Beginning April 1, 1977 those who held an Extra before July 1, 1976 may apply. Finally, beginning July 1, 1977 those who obtain an Extra after July 1, 1976 may apply. FCC will not accept any applications received prior to the above dates. One by three calls will be considered in a later FCC action.

OFFICIAL ARRL BULLETIN # 587 - FCC has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking, Docket 20777, that would delete entirely all references to specific emission types, such as A1, A3, etc. in the amateur radio rules. FCC proposes to replace the present provisions with limitations on the allowed bandwidth which an amateur signal may occupy in certain portions of the amateur bands. Four categories of permissible bandwidth are proposed. These are less than 350 Hz, less than 3.5 kHz, less than 35 kHz, 35 kHz, 35 kHz or more. CW and RTTY emissions would fall in the less than 350 Hz subbands. SSB, FAX, and conventional sstv would be allowed in the 3.5 kHz or less subbands and conventional am and nbfm would fall into the 35 kHz or less category. Watch for details in QST. Comment deadline June 23, reply comments July 23.

OFFICIAL ARRL BULLETIN # 588 - The Federal Communications Commission announced on May 7th 1976 that because of the urgent need for emergency communications as a result of the recent earthquake in Italy, the Italian government has agreed to permit third party traffic between U.S. and Italian amateurs for the duration of the emergency.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN # 589 - Now is the time to obtain entry forms for several upcoming ARRL operating activities. For the June VHF QSO Party only log sheets are required, containing space for fifty contacts per sheet. For Field Day dupe sheets are required, one per band/mode, plus a summary sheet.. The July Bicentennial Celebration requires special log sheets containing space for 200 contacts, dupe sheets for each mode and a summary. All of these forms are ready for immediate distribution from ARRL when requests are accompanied by a large addressed and stamped envelope. Please indicate the contest forms required..

### SILENT KEY:

We are deeply sorry to report the passing of James H. Clark 92, of 4126 Highland Street. So. St. Petersburg, Florida He passed away at the Bay Pines V.A. Hospital Saturday May 15, 1976. Jim K4KKK was a long time member of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club, and loved by all. He was always ready to help his amateur friends, and he will be missed. Our condolences to his many friends and family. A native of Kanawha, Ky. Jim came here from Butler, Pa. 20 years ago. A member of the El Hasa Masonic Temple, Ashland, Ky. He was retired as a supervisor for ARMCO STEEL CO. Jim is survived by four sons, Charles H. Glenmore W., James G., and William R., all of Butler Penna. Viewing was held at the Palms Memorial Sunday May 16, 1976 from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M. Interment will be held later at the Rose Hill Cemetery, Butler, Penna., from the Young Funeral Home, Butler, Penna.



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YACHTS SAIL FOR ISLA MUJERES

The eighth sailing of the St. Petersburg-Isla Mujeres Yacht Race took place April 24th at 9:00 a.m. East of the St. Petersburg Pier. This 465 mile race is still one of big-time yacht racing's few fun races. Dave Davis, W4GQ starts communications with XE3DE Alfredo in Merida, Yucatan weeks prior to the race, passing necessary information.

I was asked by Dave to help him with communications here so that the information on the start of the race could be passed to the authorities in Yucatan. I asked for help on two meters and had excellent response. Dave and I would like to thank the following people for their help; WA4FYR Paul Jordan and Sandy on the starting boat, WA4DUT Steve Pazar who was on the Coast Guard Auxillary boat at the Skyway Bridges, WB4FYS Victor Astolfi for making the arrangements with the Coast Guard Auxillary so we could have WA4DUT aboard. WB4YTY John Komp for the loan of his HR2A to Steve WA4DUT. K4SCL Woody for permission to use the repeater as needed. Bill Bonner, skipper of the "Moon Mist" and Gerald Henry of the Coast Guard Auxillary.

Starting information was passed by WA4FYR Paul on the official boat, to Dave W4GQ, Alfredo XE3DE, and Jim K4FCW who were on the top deck of the Pier. Soon after Dave and Alfredo went to the Albert Whitted Airport and in Alfredo's plane went to the area of the Skyway Bridges.

A little excitement happened....a filler cap on the plane was leaking slightly and was spotted by the skipper of another boat who is a Ham K4NX and also a plane pilot, He did not know that there was 52 simplex on the plane so he went thru Tampa airport tower to contact the plane. They returned to the airport and put in new gaskets and all was ok. Meanwhile Steve WA4DUT was writing down the information and the times the yachts passed under the western bridge and this information was passed to Barney K4NB on 52 simplex. With Dave and Alfredo in the plane and Steve on the boat things worked out extremely well all around.

The first two yachts arrived at the island on Tuesday afternoon late and the remainder on Wednesday. There was a great celebration as this is one of the biggest dates on the Island's calendar and the locals mostly fishermen and sailors from the Mexican naval vessels based here, go out of their way to make the invaders welcome.

During all these activities, Barney K4NB was maintaining communications with XE3DE in Merida and also with XE3DE at Isla Mujeres Sons of Alfredo XE3DE who was here at the time. This was done on twenty meters.

On Wednesday Dave W4GQ after receiving information from XE3DE at Isla Mujeres as to the race standings... passed this information to all the local T.V. stations here in St. Petersburg and was used on the 11 P.M. newscasts. The results were also given to the St. Petersburg Times sport editor for use in the Thursday April 29th morning paper.

Again many thanks to all those who helped with the entire event....

73 Jim K4FCW.....

## S P A R C \_ G A P

SPARC REPEATER NEWS - The Repeater Team meeting of May 4th was held at Henderson Hall, American Red Cross Chapter Headquarters in St. Petersburg, Florida. There were 49 members and guests present. The membership is in general agreement that this is a more comfortable and appropriate meeting place than our previous Fire Headquarters classroom. At least we have bathroom facilities available here. And since this is where the Club meets, most members know where it is. Future meetings are planned for this new meeting place, the next being June 1st at 7:30 P.M.

We were honored at this meeting by the presence of Ken Crumpton W4JYE, Vice President of the Florida Repeater Council. Ken indicated next meeting of FRC will be in June at Starke, Fla. at which there will be election of officers. Upon receipt of more definite information, we will try to have WR4ALM represented at this meeting.

Recently the repeater has been kept busy a great deal of the time with idle conversation of little importance. While this is sort of part and parcel of Amateur Radio, it is pretty rough on your trustee, control operators and others who are dedicated to monitoring the repeater nearly continuously to ensure that it is working properly and that emergencies are handled skillfully. Accordingly, K4SCL made a plea asking all users to keep transmissions brief, giving some consideration as to whether what they are saying needs to be said at all, leaving space between transmissions for stations to break with more important transmissions and even to let the repeater rest once in a while !!!! Stations, especially base stations, desiring to carry on long-winded QSOs should consider shifting to simplex frequencies so that the many listeners on the repeater would not be forced to listen to your (very clever and entertaining ?!) transmissions or shut off their receivers.

The subject of keeping the repeater open for general use all night or past our curfew hour of 11 P.M. came up for discussion again. All our current control operators are people who sleep at night. They put in untold hundreds of hours monitoring so that the repeater can remain open. Being awakened for an occasional bonified emergency is tolerable, but being kept awake by idle chatter or malicious keying up of the repeater during our silent period of 11 P.M. to 6 A.M. can not be tolerated. This will necessitate shutting down the repeater. Although several "night persons" volunteered to take over control at night, the trustee vowed he would not appoint anybody as control operator unless he is a mature and experienced amateur who is personally trusted to share the trustee's responsibility.

WA4CTM moved to have the drop-out delay shortened to 2 seconds and require all stations to wait for the drop-out before transmitting, thus giving time for emergency break-ins. After discussion of technical implications, the motion died for lack of a second. However, it was requested that all stations allow time for the emergency break-ins. It is also requested that transmissions be kept short. Two sentences should be enough for most transmissions.

The SPARC Repeater now managed by K5IHH/4 is going great !!! During April it had average check-ins of 31.6 stations per session -- more than any other net in the State. Nineteen stations have earned net certificates by checking in at least 10 times per month for the last three months. These stations are: WA4GMJ/4 AA4CVV W4EGM K4FCW WA4FPS WA4FYR W4GPL WB4HYH K5IHH/4 W4IRA K4KE WA4KCR K4KXC K4NAN W4NOK WA4NFA K4SCL K4TH and WB4ZPU.

de K4SCL Woody.

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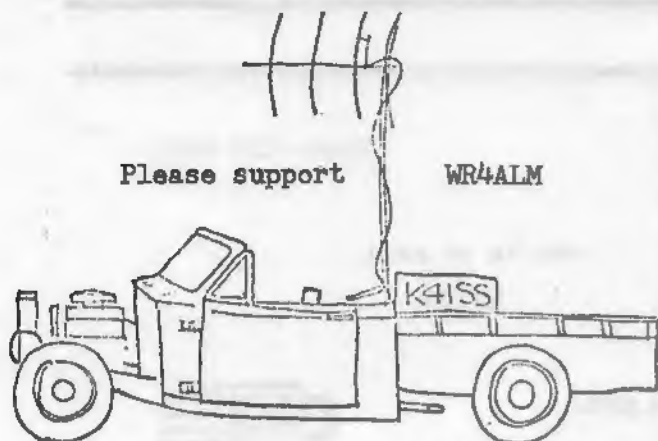


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